

Listing of Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Previously Amended) In a computer system having a laboratory information system application program, an operating system and a printer driver, a method for formatting data from a group of laboratory instruments, the method comprising:
- obtaining data indicative of outputs of the group of laboratory instruments by the laboratory information system application program;
 - transferring the data from the laboratory information system application program, to an operating system for printing;
 - transferring the data, by the operating system, to the printer driver;
 - formatting the data, by the printer driver, into a format required by an external monitoring facility; and
 - storing the formatted data in a file for extraction by the external monitoring facility.
2. (Previously Amended) In a computer system having a laboratory information system application program, an operating system, a printer driver and a port monitor, a method for formatting data from a group of laboratory instruments, the method comprising:
- obtaining data indicative of outputs of the group of laboratory instruments by the laboratory information system application program;
 - transferring the data, by the laboratory information system application program, to an operating system for printing;

transferring the data from the operating system to the printer driver;
transferring the data from the printer driver to the port monitor;
formatting the data, by the port monitor, into a format required by an
external monitoring facility; and
storing the formatted data in a file for extraction by the external monitoring
facility.

3. (Currently amended) A system for formatting laboratory instrument output
data, the system comprising:

a laboratory information system application program for receiving data
outputs from one or more laboratory instruments;

an operating system operable to run the laboratory information system
application program and to provide centralized printing; and

a printer driver for receiving the data to be printed out, ~~and~~ formatting the
data according to a predetermined format, and storing the formatted data in a file for extraction
by an external monitoring facility.

4. (Currently amended) A system for formatting laboratory instrument output
data, the system comprising:

a laboratory information system application program for receiving data
outputs from one or more laboratory instruments;

an operating system operable to run the laboratory information system
application program and to provide centralized printing; and

a port monitor for receiving data to be printed, ~~and~~ formatting the data according to a predetermined format, and storing the formatted data in a file for extraction by an external monitoring facility.

cl 5. (Previously added) The method of claim 1, wherein said format required for an external monitoring facility comprises a title portion and a data portion.

6. (Currently amended) The method of claim 5, wherein said title portion comprises a field for material title, a field for material level, and a field for material lot number, and wherein said data portion comprises a field for date, a ~~filed~~ field for time, a field for test result, and a field for unit identifier.

7. (Previously added) The system of claim 3, wherein said predetermined format comprises a title portion and a data portion.

8. (Currently amended) The system of claim 7, wherein said title portion comprises a field for material title, a field for material level, and a field for material lot number, and wherein said data portion comprises a field for date, a ~~filed~~ field for time, a field for test result, and a field for unit identifier.
